

PROVIDING THAT CHILDREN BE COMMITTED TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE IN LIEU OF BEING COMMITTED TO THE NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS; THAT THE PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS BE AVAILABLE FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED TO OR ACCEPTED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

MARCH 14 (legislative day, MARCH 12), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. PASTORE, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 492]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 492) to provide that children be committed to the Board of Public Welfare in lieu of being committed to the National Training School for Girls; that the property and personnel of the National Training School for Girls be available for the care of children committed to or accepted by the Board of Public Welfare; and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to require that all delinquent minors shall be committed by the juvenile court to the Board of Public Welfare, and by the Board of Public Welfare in its discretion to foster care or other institutions, including the National Training School for Girls. Under existing law, minor Negro girls who have been convicted of serious offenses are committed by the juvenile court of the District of Columbia, to the National Training School for Girls. This institution provides complete rehabilitation programs. For the past 4 years it has been filled to less than half of its full capacity.

At the same time, there are in the District of Columbia many delinquent minors who have not been found guilty of serious offenses, who require rehabilitation training which the National Training School for Girls offers. Under existing law these girls are in the custody of the Board of Public Welfare, which places them in foster homes or other institutions where they receive custodial care but no rehabilitation. The purpose of the bill is to use the full capacity of the National Training School for Girls, and at the same time allow the

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use of its facilities for rehabilitation of delinquent minors not convicted of serious offenses. Under the bill, the juvenile court would commit all offenders to the Board of Public Welfare which, in its discretion, would be allowed to place girls needing rehabilitation in the National Training School for Girls. Similar facilities now exist for the reformation of delinquent minor white and colored boys and white girls. Adequate facilities exist at the National Training School for Girls for segregation of girls guilty of serious offenses, from merely delinquent minors.

The problem has become increasingly urgent because one institution in Maryland to which a number of delinquent minors were committed may shortly close its doors. Unless this bill is enacted the Board of Public Welfare will have no facilities in which to place them.

The bill was unanimously reported by the Senate District of Columbia Committee. It has the support of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the Board of Public Welfare, the juvenile court of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Anticrime Committee, the District of Columbia Health Officer, and other interested groups. It requires no expenditure of funds; by making full use of the facilities of the National Training School for Girls, it may be expected to reduce the cost of institutional care of delinquent minors in the District of Columbia.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

(31 STAT. 809, CH. 478)

SEC. 8. That whenever any girl under the age of seventeen years shall be brought before any court of the District of Columbia or any judge of such court, and shall be convicted of any crime or misdemeanor punishable by fine or imprisonment other than imprisonment for life, such court or judge, in lieu of sentencing her to imprisonment in the county jail or fining her, may commit her to the [Reform School for Girls] *Board of Public Welfare.* [to remain until she shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years unless sooner discharged by the board of trustees.] *Girls committed to the Board of Public Welfare may be committed for such periods as the courts may deem proper, subject to earlier discharge by the Board of Public Welfare, but no girl shall be so committed for a period extending beyond her twenty-first birthday.* And the judges of the criminal and police courts of the District of Columbia shall have power to commit to the [Reform School for Girls,] *Board of Public Welfare,* first, any girl under seventeen years of age who may be liable to punishment by imprisonment under any existing law of the District of Columbia or any law that may be enacted and in force in said District; second, any girl under seventeen years of age, with the consent of her parent or guardian, against whom any charge of crime or misdemeanor shall have been made, upon probable cause shown to the satisfaction of the court; third, any girl under seventeen years of age who is destitute of a suitable home and adequate means of obtaining an honest living or who is in danger of being brought up, or is brought up, to lead an idle or vicious life; fourth, any girl under seventeen years of age who is incorrigible or habitually disregards the commands of her father or mother or guardian, who leads a vagrant life, or resorts to immoral places or practices, or neglects or refuses to perform labor suitable to her years and condition or to attend school. And the president of the board of trustees may also commit to the [Reform School for Girls] *Board of Public Welfare* such girls as are mentioned in the foregoing third and fourth classes upon application or com-

plaint, in writing, of a parent or guardian or relative having charge of such girl, and upon such testimony in regard to the facts stated as shall be satisfactory to him; and for taking testimony in such cases he is hereby empowered to administer oaths.

(52 STAT. 599, CH. 309)

SEC. 14. HEARING; JUDGMENT.—The court may conduct the hearing in an informal manner, and may adjourn the hearing from time to time. In the hearing of any case the general public shall be excluded and only such persons as have a direct interest in the case and their representatives admitted. All cases involving children may be heard separately and apart from the trial of cases against adults. The court shall hear and determine all cases of children without a jury unless a jury be demanded by the child, his parents or guardian or the court.

If the court shall find that the child comes within the provisions of this Act, it may by order duly entered proceed as follows:

(1) Place the child on probation or under supervision in his own home or in the custody of a relative or other fit person, upon such terms as the court shall determine.

(2) Commit the child to the Board of Public Welfare; or to the [National Training School for Girls or the] National Training School for Boys if in need of such care as is given in such [schools] school; or to a qualified suitable private institution or agency willing and able to assume the education, care, and maintenance of such child without expense to the public.

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3. COMMITTEE TO THE COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Committee to the Board of Trustees is a body of persons who are interested in the affairs of the institution and who are elected by the Board of Trustees to represent the interests of the students and the faculty.

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